

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Reissue Patent Application of:

Jeffrey R. STONER and Carol E. STONER

Original Patent No.: **5,988,384**

Original Patent Issue Date: **November 23, 1999**

For: **"CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT HANGER/HOLDER"**

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Box Reissue
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Please enter the following changes to the specification and claims to effect correction to clerical errors present in the issued patent. Also, please add the following new claims to broaden the scope of protection to which Applicants feel they are entitled. No new matter is being added.

Please amend the application, without prejudice, as follows:

In the Specification:

Please delete the second paragraph of DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART

at column 1, lines 15-16 and insert the following:

U.S. Pat. No. 5,168,985 to Shih discloses a box [which] with a lift up stand for holding jewelry.

Please delete the last paragraph of DESCRIPTION OF THE PRIOR ART at column 1, lines 21-23 and insert the following:

U.S. Pat. No. 5,762,184 to Greiner discloses a jewelry holder with at least one removable self-standing stand that can be removed from the holder.

Please delete the last paragraph of the BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS at column 1, lines 53-54 and insert the following:

FIG. 2 is [a perspective] an elevational view of the hanger used with the present invention.

Please delete the second full paragraph of column 2 at column 2, lines 10-14 and insert the following:

[Or] On an inside surface of the top 2 [is] are fastened a plurality of hooks 12 which will hold the hanger shown in FIG. 2. It should be noted that although only two hooks 12 are shown, any number of hooks can be attached to the top without departing from the scope of the present invention.

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims to correct an error of the Patent Office as follows:

1. (Amended) A container for storing Christmas ornaments, said container comprising:
a box having a top, sides, back, bottom and an open front,
a front portion hinged to said bottom,
said front portion being movable from a first position in which said front

portion closes said open front of said box to a second position in which said front portion uncovers said open front of said box,
 means for holding said front portion in said first position,
 said top of said box having an inside surface and an outside surface,
 support means for holding a hanger mounted on said inside surface of said top of [said] said box, and
 a hanger means for holding Christmas ornaments detachably secured to said support means,
 said hanger means having means for engaging said support means for securing said hanger means on said support means,
 said hanger means having a top portion and a bottom portion,
 said bottom portion having a plurality of ridges [space] spaced therealong.

Please add the following new claims:

4. (New) An ornament holder, comprising:
a container having an opening and inside walls;
a cover section releasably openable relative to the container, the cover section adapted to cover the opening;
a hanger support disposed inside the container; and
a hanger removably mountable relative to the support to provide an open region between the hanger and at least one of the inside walls of the container, the hanger adapted to hold an ornament.
5. (New) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the cover section is hingeably mounted to the container.
6. (New) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the cover section is pivotally connected to the container.
7. (New) The ornament holder of claim 4, comprising a fastener to fasten the cover section to the container.

8. (New) The ornament holder of claim 7, wherein the fastener is mounted externally to the container.
9. (New) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the hanger comprises a plurality of ridges spaced therealong.
10. (New) The ornament holder of claim 9, wherein the ridges are adapted to retain an ornament.
11. (New) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the hanger comprises a plurality of fingers spaced therealong.
12. (New) The ornament holder of claim 11, wherein the fingers are adapted to retain an ornament.
13. (New) The ornament holder of claim 4, wherein the hanger support comprises a hook.
14. (New) The ornament holder of claim 4 wherein the hanger is mountable on the hanger support to provide the open region between the hanger and the inside wall of the container opposite the opening.
15. (New) The ornament holder of claim 4 wherein the container includes a front and a rear and wherein the opening is provided on the front generally opposite the rear of the container to define a depth therebetween.
16. (New) The ornament holder of claim 15 wherein the hanger comprises a rod for holding an ornament, the rod having a thickness less than the depth of the container.
17. (New) The ornament holder of claim 16 where the hanger is mountable on the hanger support to provide the open region between the hanger and the rear of the container.

18. (New) The ornament holder of claim 4 wherein the cover section is mounted relative to the container and wherein the cover section is moveable from a first position in which the cover section covers the opening of the container to a second position which provides access inside of the container.

**REMARKS, INCLUDING STATUS OF
CLAIMS PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. §1.173(c)**

STATUS

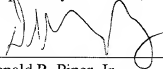
Claims 1-3 of the issued patent are pending.

Claim 1 has been amended. New claims 4 - 18 are added by this amendment.

REMARKS

Amendment to claim 1 is sought to correct a typographical error on the part of the USPTO. Support for the requested correction to claim 1 is found in the original application filed by Applicants. Support for the newly added claims is found in Figures 1 and 2 and the associated text of the specification.

Respectfully submitted,



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